

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 14, 2017

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty commercial salmon

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2016 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 20, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>. An updated Joint Staff Report is expected within a few weeks.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Pre-season forecasts are shown in the table below.

		2016 Forecast	2016 Return	2017 Forecast
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	93,300	91,048	63,100
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	101,600	354,466	198,500
	Wenatchee	57,800	na	54,200
	Okanogan	41,700	na	137,900
	Yakima	na	na	4,000
	Deschutes	na	na	1,000
	Snake River	2,100	944	1,400
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	265,400	184,044	130,700
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	9,200	12,238	11,300
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>4,436</i>	<i>4,100</i>
	A-run Index (total) <78cm	230,400	128,395	112,100
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	<i>89,100</i>	<i>31,520</i>	<i>33,000</i>
	B-run Index (total) ≥78cm	25,800	42,103	7,300
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	<i>7,400</i>	<i>6,465</i>	<i>1,100</i>
** Natural Origin components are included in the stock total.				

- The summer management period runs from June 16 through July 31. Chinook salmon passing Bonneville Dam or harvested during this time period are managed as Upper Columbia summer Chinook. The sockeye run size includes any Columbia River sockeye no matter when it returns or passes Bonneville Dam. The upriver Skamania steelhead run includes steelhead passing Bonneville between April 1 and June 30. A-Index and B-Index steelhead include steelhead passing Bonneville between July 1 and October 31.
- Based on the current forecasts, according to the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 17,100 adult summer Chinook and 13,895 sockeye. There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in summer season fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is

low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates. TAC will begin to update run sizes in late June or early July. Actual allowed fishery impacts are based on actual not forecast run sizes.

- Through June 13, 4,722 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is within the range of recent years. Additionally, the Skamania steelhead count at Bonneville totals 2,139, including 632 unclipped fish. This is the lowest Skamania steelhead count to date since at least 1970 and the lowest unclipped count to date since 2013.

SUMMER SEASON COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes plan to begin to allow commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish caught after 6 AM June 16 and expect sales to run continuously through the summer Management Period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes will begin commercial gillnet fisheries on June 19. The tribes have planned two initial gillnet openings and may schedule additional openings at a later date.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in the table below. The model assumes average recent set net effort along with average weekly harvest rates. The model will be adjusted to account for actual fishery performance as the season progresses.

2017 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries Projected Catches				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	--	--	100	--
Jun 19-22 (3 nights)	330	4,900	1,400	100
Jun 26-29 (3 nights)	360	4,700	2,700	100
Subtotal #1 through 7/1		9,600	4,200	200
Allowed at Pre-Season Forecast		17,100	13,895	
Remaining		7,500	9,695	

Note: Platform and hook and line harvest is included in gillnet catch estimates for weeks with Commercial gillnet fishing periods.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2017 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery		
Season	6 AM Monday June 19 to 6 PM Thursday, June 22 6 AM Monday June 26 to 6 PM Thursday, June 29	(3.5 days) (3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.	
Gear:	Set and Drift Gill nets with a 7" minimum mesh size restriction	

Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Additionally, the tribes have adopted regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery consistent with the following. Some tribal regulations may specify that the platform fishery allows commercial sales “until further notice”. The tribes expect to seek consistent state regulations at the first fall season compacts to extend sales into the fall management period.

<i>2017 Treaty Fishery – Summer Season Commercial Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line</i>	
Season:	Fish harvested after 6:00 AM June 16 through 11:59 PM July 31 may be sold commercially.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas in place for this gear type, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The tribes may choose to open fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam according to agreements with the States of Oregon and Washington. The harvest downstream of Bonneville is expected to be no more than 100 Chinook and 100 sockeye and very small numbers of steelhead. The catch downstream of Bonneville Dam is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.

<i>2017 Treaty Fishery - Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Downstream of Bonneville Dam</i>	
Season	The commercial sale of fish caught after 6:00 AM June 16 through 11:59 PM July 31 is allowed, but only during days and times when a commercial fishery is opened under tribal rules.
Area	Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Gear:	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.

Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fish must be transported elsewhere for sale. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. COE property at Bonneville Dam has no public trash service and fishers along with any other visitors need to remove any trash with them.

- The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of fish caught in Zone 6 tributary fisheries when tributary fishing periods overlap with open sales periods for the mainstem as follows:

<i>2017 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries</i>	
Season:	The commercial sale of fish caught after 6:00 AM June 16 is allowed until further notice, and only during those days and hours when the tributaries listed below are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
Area:	Wind River, Drano Lake and Klickitat River
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence. Sales of fish are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through the tribal creel program. Set net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Drift net effort is estimated through the creel monitoring program. Catches for the platform fishery are typically summed with and reported with gillnet catches for any week with a commercial gillnet opening. Any harvest downstream of Bonneville is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- Commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal people and communities along the Columbia River as well as providing food for consumers.

Future Meetings

- The tribes may request another Compact Hearing during the week of June 26.